



# RESPONSIBLE REFORM FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRATS.SENATE.GOV/REFORM

## **Tennessee: The Cost of Inaction**

### **Tennessee Families Suffer**

#### **Tennessee insurance premiums skyrocket**

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$5,153.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$9,996.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$19,390, a 94 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 44.3 percent of projected Tennessee median family income.

#### **More uninsured Tennesseans**

- ✓ Every day, 400 Tennesseans lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 1,722,000 Tennesseans under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 32.4 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 845,728 Tennesseans under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 16.2 percent of the under 65 population.

#### **Tennesseans pay higher premiums due to the uninsured**

- ✓ Tennessee families pay a “hidden tax” of \$900 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

#### **Fewer choices due to consolidated market**

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Tennessee have a combined market share of 62 percent.

### **Tennessee Businesses Suffer**

#### **Fewer Tennesseans have health coverage at work**

- ✓ In 2002, 61.8 percent of Tennesseans under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 58 percent of Tennesseans had coverage through their employer.

#### **Fewer Tennessee small businesses offer health coverage**

- ✓ In 2000, 40.6 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 36.7 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

### **Tennessee Economy Suffers**

#### **Health care spending climbs**

- ✓ In 2004, Tennessee spent \$32.2 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$5,464 per capita, and is 15.6 percent of the Gross State Product.

#### **Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health**

- ✓ This year, the Tennessee economy will lose \$2.2 billion - \$4.3 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.